

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of purifying contaminated soil containing clay or silt by microorganisms, comprising

adding perlite to contaminated soil containing clay or silt, and then

mixing the soil by agitation, so as to cause the perlite to absorb pore water

contained in the clay or silt thereby resulting in an increased gas phase rate of about two times,

without aerating by introducing injected air,

while adding microbes to the contaminated soil that degrade the contaminants

contained within the contaminated soil thereby microbially degrading the contaminants, ~~wherein the microbes comprise the MO7 strain.~~

2. (currently amended) The method of purifying contaminated soil ~~by the MO7 strain of microorganisms~~ according to claim 1, wherein the microbes and the perlite are separately added to the contaminated soil.

3. - 5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method of purifying contaminated soil containing clay or silt by microorganisms, comprising the steps of:

adding perlite to contaminated soil containing clay or silt;

mixing the soil by agitation thereby resulting in an increased gas phase rate of
about two times;

without aerating by introducing injected air; and

degrading contaminants contained in the contaminated soil by adding microbes to
the contaminated soil that degrade the contaminants within the contaminated soil, ~~wherein the~~
~~microbes comprise the MO7 strain.~~

7. (currently amended) The method of purifying contaminated soil ~~by the MO7~~
~~strain of microorganisms~~ according to claim 6, wherein the microbes and the perlite are
separately added to the contaminated soil.

8. - 10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the soil is contaminated
by chlorinated organic compounds.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the chlorinated organic
compound is trichloroethylene.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the soil is contaminated
by chlorinated organic compounds.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the chlorinated organic compound is trichloroethylene.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the soil is contaminated by petroleum hydrocarbons.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the petroleum hydrocarbons are selected from heavy oil and gasoline.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the soil is contaminated by petroleum hydrocarbons.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the petroleum hydrocarbons are selected from heavy oil and gasoline.

19. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the microbes comprise the MO7 strain.

20. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the microbes comprise the MO7 strain.

21. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein the microbes comprise the MO7 strain.

22. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein the microbes comprise the MO7 strain.